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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

## INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Finland

DATE 25X1X6

SUBJECT Workers' Educational Association

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## SOURCE

Background

1. The Finnish labor movement had no well defined central organization before the first World War. In 1919 the "Workers' Educational Association" was established. In line with former labor activities, this organization was patterned after the Swedish.
2. The Finnish Society "Työväen Sivistysliitto" (Workers' Educational Association) included in its program lecture courses and study circles. The study circles resembled those carried on in Sweden, and there was further development of evening schools and courses by means of which the education of the Finnish working people had already been proceeding.
3. The Workers' Educational Association was popular with organized labor from the start, and through the years it has developed in strength and popularity. Its activities have been financed by regular donations from the organizations with which it has been allied, chiefly the Social Democratic Party, the labor unions and the so-called progressive cooperatives. It has received State support since 1920.

Later Developments

4. The new leftist organizations which have come into being since the fall of 1944, especially the Finnish Communist Party, are now affiliated with the Workers' Educational Association.
5. The association has adapted itself to new forms of activity in connection with the lecture courses and study circles. In 1921 a correspondence school was started. In 1941 a workers' book circle was formed which seeks to supply its members with books at a minimum cost by publishing literature itself. By assisting in the various libraries, the association attempts to be ready at all times with advice and service. Since 1928 the association has issued its own publication "Työläisopiskelija" (Worker Students), which contains practical advice in regard to studying, as well as articles of a general cultural nature and information regarding the association's activities.

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on in the country districts, and 750 in cities and suburban areas.

Subjects Covered

7. The most popular subject is the study of Local Government, with 305 circles working in this field. Next comes Socialism and the Labor Movement with 262 circles; then, Organizational Activities, 235 circles; the Art of Speaking, with 69 circles; Classical Literature and History of Literature, 66 circles; Labor Unions, 31; Social Training, 30; Book-keeping, 25; National Economy and Social-Political Affairs, 21; Finnish Language, 20; Theatrical Art, 15; State-ship and International Questions, 15; Psychology and Pedagogy, 10; and the Swedish Language, 10.
8. The Correspondence Institute in the spring of 1946 had 1,789 individuals enrolled. Its 210 circles had a membership of 1,978. Since 1942, when the book group began its publication activities, it has brought out thirteen books, of which ten were printed in the book circle's own publishing house.

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